

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

A substitute specification with marked up version is being submitted for the examiner's consideration.

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority benefit to International Application No. PCT/US2004/009370 filed on March 26, 2004 and published in English under the PCT, and United States Application No. 10/444,432, filed May 23, 2003, now United States Patent No. 6,742,841, issued June 1, 2004 all of which are incorporated herein by this
10 reference.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

~~[0005]—One embodiment of the invention relates to a vehicle seat. The vehicle seat comprises a seat back coupled to a vehicle. A seat base is coupled to the seat back and configured to rotate from a seating position to a stored position. A leg assembly,~~
15 ~~having a leg member, is coupled to the seat base and configured to rotate from a deployed position to a retracted position. An indicator is coupled to the seat base to indicate a predetermined condition of the seat base. Another embodiment of the vehicle seat includes a cable coupled to the seat back and the leg assembly, wherein the cable moves the leg assembly from a deployed position to a retracted position when the seat base is~~
20 ~~moved from the seating position to the stored position and the leg assembly clears a cargo zone located under at least a portion of the seat base.~~

~~[0006]—There is also provided a rear seat of a passenger carrying vehicle. The rear seat comprises a seat back coupled to the vehicle. A seat base is coupled to the seat back and configured to rotate from the seating position to a stored position. A leg~~
25 ~~assembly is coupled to the seat base and configured to rotate from a deployed position to~~

a retracted position. An indicator is coupled to the seat base to indicate a predetermined condition of the seat base. Another embodiment of the rear seat includes a cable coupled to the seat back and leg assembly. The cable moves the leg assembly from the deployed position to the retracted position when the seat base is moved from the seating position to the stored position and the leg assembly clears a cargo zone located under at least a portion of the seat base. The rear seat may also include a biasing assembly coupled to the seat base and a leg assembly to assist in moving the leg assembly from the seating position to the stored position.

[0007] There is further provided a method for automatic retraction of a leg assembly coupled to a vehicle seat mounted in a vehicle. The vehicle seat includes a seat back and a seat base. The method comprises the steps of providing a cable of a predetermined length. Coupling one end of the cable to the seat back and coupling another end of the cable to the leg assembly. The leg assembly moves from a deployed position to a retracted position as the seat base is moved from a seating position to a retracted position and the leg assembly clears a cargo zone located under at least a portion of the seat base. Another embodiment of the method includes the step of providing a biasing member coupled to the leg assembly and the seat base configured to bias the leg assembly from the seating position to the stored position to assist the user of the vehicle seat to move the seat base.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] One embodiment of the invention relates to a vehicle seat. The vehicle seat comprises the seat back configured to be coupled to the vehicle. A seat base is positioned with respect to the seat back. The seat base has a front portion and a rear portion. The seat base is configured to move from a seating position wherein an occupant can be seated in the seat to a stored position wherein the seat base is moved closer to an position substantially aligned with the seat back and the front portion of seat base is positioned higher than the rear portion of the seat base. A leg member comprising a

single U-shaped tool, with the leg member having a first leg portion connected to the seat base, a second leg portion connected to the seat base and a middle portion configured to be supported on the floor of the vehicle. The leg member defining a deployed position corresponding with the seating position wherein the leg member supports the seat base and the leg member also defining a retractable position corresponding to the stored position wherein the leg member is folded close to the seat base. A cable having a first end connected to the leg member for a rotating leg member from a deployed position and toward the retracted position when the seat base is moved from the seating position and toward the stored position. A cable protection mechanism is connected to the cable such that when the seat base is locked in stored position and the leg member is pulled, a leg member will move without damaging the cable.

[0007] There is also provided a seat for use in a second row of a vehicle. The seat has at least one side and a storage area below the seat. The seat comprises a seat back configured to mounted in the vehicle a seat base is configured to be mounted in the vehicle. The seat base has a front portion, a rear portion and a side portion extending between the front portion and the rear portion. The seat base is configured to rotate from a seating position, wherein an occupant can be seated, and to a stored position wherein the seat base is closer to the seat back and the front portion of the seat base is positioned above the rear portion of the seat base. A leg assembly including a leg member comprising a U-shaped tube, with leg member having a first leg portion connected to the seat base, a second leg portion connected to the seat base and a middle portion extending between the first and second leg portions. The leg assembly is moveable between a deployed position corresponding with the seating position in a retracted position corresponding to the stored position. A cable having a first end is connected to the leg assembly and a second end is secured wherein movement of the seat base causes the cable to move the leg member to the retracted position. A biasing member is connected between leg assembly and the seat base. The biasing member for biasing the leg member toward the deployed position. When the seat is in the seating position and the leg

member is in the deployed position to support the seat base, the side of the seat is open to allow access to the storage area below the seat base.

5 [0008] There is further provided a seat for a vehicle. The seat comprises a seat back configured to be mounted in the vehicle. The seat base has a front portion and a rear portion. The seat base is configured to rotate from the seating position, wherein an occupant can be seated, and to a stored position wherein the seat the base is positioned substantially aligned with the seat back and the front portion of the seat base is positioned higher than the rear portion of the seat base. A leg assembly including a leg member is connected to the seat base. A cable having a first end is connected to the leg assembly
10 and a second end is secured wherein the seat base moves from the seating position to the stored position the movement of the seat base causes the cable to move the leg member to the retracted position. A biasing member is connected between the leg assembly and the seat base with the biasing member biasing the leg member toward the deploy position. A mechanism is connected to cable such that when the seat base is locked in the stored
15 position and the leg member is pulled, the leg member moves without damaging the cable.

[0009] There is additionally provided a seat for use in a second row of a vehicle. The seat has at least one side and a storage area below the seat. The seat comprises a seat back configured to be coupled to the vehicle. A seat base is configured to be coupled to
20 the vehicle. The seat base has a front portion, a rear portion and a side portion extending between the front portion and the rear portion. The seat base is configured to rotate from a seating position, wherein an occupant can be seated, and to a stored position wherein the seat base is positioned substantially aligned with the seat back and the front portion of the seat base is positioned higher than the rear portion of the seat base. A leg assembly
25 including a leg member comprises a single U-shaped tube. The leg member has a first leg portion connected to the seat base, a second leg portion connected to the seat base and a middle portion extending between the first and second leg portions. The middle portion

is configured to be received in a leg detent located in a floor of the vehicle. A cable having a first end is connected to the leg assembly and a second end is secured such that when the seat base moves from the seating position to the stored position the movement of the seat base causes the cable to move the leg member to the retracted position. When
5 the seat is in the seating position and the leg member is extended to support the seat base, the side of the seat is open to allow access to the storage area below the seat base.

[0010] In addition, there is provided a seat for a vehicle comprising a seat back configured to be located in the vehicle in a seat base. The seat base has a front portion and a rear portion. The seat base is configured to rotate between a seating position,
10 wherein an occupant can be seated, and a stored position wherein the seat base is positioned substantially aligned with the seat back and the front portion of the seat base is positioned higher than the rear portion of the seat base. A U-shaped leg assembly is connected to the seat base for supporting the seat base in the seating position. A break-away mechanism is connected to the cable such that when the seat base is locked in the
15 stored position and the leg member is pulled, when a force is applied to the leg assembly, the leg assembly moves toward the deploy position while the seat base remains in the stored position without damaging the cable.

[0011] It is further provided a seat for a vehicle with the seat comprising a seat back configured to be located in the vehicle in a seat base having a front portion and a
20 rear portion. The seat base is configured to move between a seating position, wherein an occupant can be seated, and a stored position wherein the seat base is positioned substantially aligned with the seat back and the front portion of the seat base is positioned higher than the rear portion of the seat base. A U-shaped leg assembly is connected with respect to the seat base for supporting the seat base in the seating position. The leg
25 assembly is pivotally connected to the seat base and configured to pivot between a stowed position corresponding to when the seat base is in the stored position and a deployed position corresponding to when the seat base is in the seating position. A leg bracket

connected to the seat base and the leg assembly is pivotally connected to the leg bracket.
A biasing member is connected between the leg assembly and the seat base, with the
biasing member for biasing the leg member toward the deploy position.

[0025] Referring generally to the Figure and in particular to FIG. 1 there is
5 shown a vehicle seat 10 for use in a vehicle 5 of any known type. The vehicle seat 10
includes a seat base 12 which supports a cushioned seat and a seat back 14. Seat base 12
and seat back 14 are independently pivotally connected to a base bracket 26. Such
configuration allows occupant to use a fixed non-movable back or a recline/dump type
back. The seat 10 can be either a manually adjustable seat or may be provided with
10 electric motors to provide automated adjustment and electronic control of the seat. Such
manipulation can be accomplished by the use of a change of position mechanism coupled
to the seat 14 back and seat base 12. It is also contemplated that 2 separate mechanism
may be used to provide flexibility in seat configuration. The change of position
mechanism may provide for the back frame to move in proportional relation to the seat
15 base 12 at a predetermined ratio, for example, moving the ~~seat 14~~ seat 10 one and a half
millimeter per degree of seat 14 back movement if a recliner mechanism is provided. The
seat 10 is connected to the floor of the support structure 6 of a vehicle 5 in any of a
variety of configurations or designs which allow for the movement and adjustment of the
seat 10 within the vehicle 5. The vehicle seat 10 may optionally include a headrest which
20 may also be adjustable with respect to an occupant of the seat 10 such as any known or
appropriate headrest.

[0028] Referring now to Figs. 1-9, there is provided a seat 10 for a vehicle 5.
The seat 10 comprises a seat back 14 coupled to the vehicle 5. A seat base 12 and seat
back 14 are coupled to the base ~~bracket 25~~ bracket 26 and with the seat base 12
25 configured to rotate from a seating position 18 to a stored position 20. The seat back 14
is coupled by the base bracket 26 which is attached to the vehicle support structure 6 of
the vehicle 5. A link bracket 28 is pivotally connected to the base bracket 26 by a

suitable pivot pin. The base bracket 26 and the link bracket 28 can be composed of any suitable material such as metal (steel for example) or an engineered plastic of suitable strength.